

This document consists of 17 pages  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH  
WASHINGTON

JUL 12 1966

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Jack Smith  
Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT : Vietnam Situation Report

Compliments are overdue on the superb job your daily "Situation in Vietnam" publication has performed. However, your issue of July 7, SC. No. 01440/66 had so many good points I thought it a proper occasion for more specific praise.

Your staff has really performed incredibly well in the daily agonizing and painstaking assessment of voluminous reports, overt and covert, concerning political developments in South Vietnam. Your recapitulation here again was commendable in every respect, providing ample detail for the harried reader to put the information in mind and yet with the proper perspective as to its validity and implications.

Similarly your piece on air-to-air-missiles, their reported and actual use over North Vietnam, raised a briefing note to a useful summary of all information to date. Your comments on Yen Bai went beyond mere reporting, offering provocative, yet carefully worded, hypotheses indicating to the reader their speculative nature.

Most impressive, however, was the section "Communist Political Developments," where you presented a balanced account of the Hanoi evacuation information, the Soviet bloc statement on "Volunteers," and most difficult of all, a detailed examination of various TDCS's bearing on Hanoi, its attitude toward negotiations, and its relations with Peking. This careful dissection of dramatically worded, unprovable but possibly true, reports deserved far wider reading than I suspect it received.

In sum, your routine service is anything but routine and on the second anniversary of the Tonkin Gulf incidents which threw us all into a constant crisis of Vietnam briefing and analysis, I would like to present INR's compliments for a job more than well done.

Thomas L. Hughes  
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